

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 16 remain pending in the present application. Claims 13-15 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-10 and 16 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed.

DRAWINGS

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Claim 13 has been cancelled. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 15 and 16 are objected to because of informalities. The claims have been amended to overcome the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 13 has been cancelled. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claim 13 has been cancelled. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

As best can be understood in view of the indefiniteness of Claim 13, Claims 1 and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shibata, et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claim 15 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 15 depended from Claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 15 and Claim 15 has been cancelled. Thus, Applicant believes Claim 1, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 11 and 12, which ultimately depend from Claim 1, are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Claims 13 and 14 have been cancelled. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibata, et al. in view of Nitta. Claim 2 depends from Claim 1. As detailed above, Claim 1 has been amended and is now believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Thus, Claim 2 is also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 6, 8-10, 15 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 6 depended from Claim 1. Claim 6 has been amended to independent form to include the limitations of Claim 1 and is thus believed to be allowable.

Claims 8-10 each depended from Claim 2 which depended from Claim 1. Each of Claims 8-10 have been amended to independent form to include the limitations of Claims 1 and 2 and are thus believed to be allowable.

Claim 15 has been incorporated into Claim 1 as detailed above. Claim 16 has been amended to depend from Claim 1.

REJOINDER

Applicant has amended the withdrawn claims to be compatible with amended Claim 1 and respectfully requests rejoinder of the withdrawn claims.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner

believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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